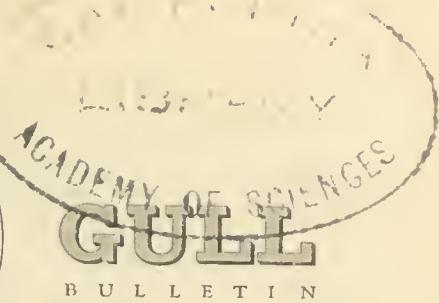


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THE
M O N T H L Y



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FEBRUARY MEETING: The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 9th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

Mr. H. S. Swarth, President of the Cooper Ornithological Club and Past Honorary President of the Association, will recount some of his experiences during the season just past, in a lecture entitled "A Naturalist in British Columbia." Visitors will be made welcome.

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FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP will be taken to Easton, on Sunday, February 12th. Party will form at corner of Fifth and Market Streets, San Francisco, to take motor bus leaving there about 8:55 a. m. East Bay members should reach Ferry Building not later than 8:20 and take car up Market to Fifth Street. Bring lunch and canteens. Leave bus at Easton Drive. Walk to top of ridge; to San Andreas Lake, and back to highway near Millbrae. About nine miles. Bus fare twenty-five cents each way. Leader, Mrs. Mary Warrington.

* * *

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING: The fifth annual meeting of the Association was held on January 12th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Miss Ames, Recording Secretary; eighteen members and six guests in attendance.

Mr. Chase Littlejohn, of the staff of the California Academy of Sciences, delivered a most interesting address, dealing with the diminutions in numbers of birds formerly very common in San Mateo County and vicinity. The yellow-billed magpie was cited as a bird which abandoned the territory without being disturbed or persecuted. The little brown, and sandhill cranes are seen no more. Flocks of lesser snow geese spend considerable time in the county, passing their days in the lake district and flying over to the bay shore in the evenings to feed. The duck population is decreasing very seriously, and the kingbird, formerly very common, is now rarely seen.

Condors were quite common in the early days. Flocks of buzzards would include one condor in twenty birds. Clapper rail were very abundant, and Mr. Littlejohn recalled his ability, as a boy, to bring them down with stone missiles, so gentle and tame were they. Later, he could secure enough for the family supply with a bow and arrow, but they were not then generally esteemed highly as a table bird. When the hunters finally started to shoot these birds, they followed the fashion of killing as many as they could and bags of two hundred per day for each "sportsman" were readily secured. There is no open season on clapper rail now, but their numbers are diminishing, nevertheless. Their feeding flats have been taken up by leveeing for

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cattle and industries. The levees are infested with rats, which destroy the rail's eggs. The planting of oysters has also resulted in establishing mussels, beds of which form a pavement over the feeding grounds of the rail. In contrast with the oyster, which opens its shell when dying, a mussel shell shuts tightly under such circumstances. A rail starting to eat a mussel, while its shell is open, will mortally wound the shell-fish, and the shell will snap shut, catching the bill of the bird, which then slowly starves to death. Mr. Littlejohn exhibited a stuffed specimen of clapper rail with its bill still clamped between the valves of the mussel shell, as he found the bird dying on the flats. The birds also suffer greatly from having their toes caught, and finally amputated, by the same process. In one locality on the marshes, of quite limited area, where there are no mussels as yet, the nests of the clapper rail still abound, but they are never found in those portions where the mussels have become established.

Formerly the only hawk which bothered the rail was the marsh hawk, which flaps and sails around near the ground and gives such warning of its approach that the rail can evade it. But latterly, the systematic eradication of squirrels has reduced the food supply of the red-tailed hawks to such an extent that they have taken to hunting the rail in the tules, and the bird is not able to cope with these dashing hunters, which soar aloft, unobserved, and drop like bullets upon the luckless rail.

Following the lecture, the Treasurer made a verbal report on the finances of the Association and the Outing Committee submitted its annual report, which appears hereafter. The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers and directors for the coming year, with the following results:

Honorary President.....	Dr. W. F. Badè
President	A. S. Kibbe
First Vice-President.....	C. R. Thomas
Second Vice-President.....	G. T. Marsh
Recording Secretary.....	Miss Isabel Ames
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto
Treasurer.....	Miss E. F. Griffin
Director	C. R. Smith
Director.....	Miss S. E. King
Director	Miss Mabel Pierce

On the motion of Mr. Lastreto, the name of Mr. Chase Littlejohn was recommended to the Board of Directors for Honorary Membership in the Association.

Mr. Lastreto then entertained the meeting with a few notes on his recent trip to the Orient, describing interesting experiences in Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Manchuria, China and Java. The nature and itinerary of the trip precluded any but very incidental or occasional bird observation. Reference was made to the mynah birds, which look like magpies, act like robins, and sing like grosbeaks, thrashers and robins. No water birds were observed in Japan, but here was met a bird like the English sparrow, which was also encountered almost everywhere during the trip. A wonderful collection of birds was found in the zoo at Kioto. The Chinese fondness for birds as pets was much in evidence, the popular method of handling them being attached by the feet to bits of string about twenty inches in length. Many beautiful species of bird were offered for sale in this shape and the shops were crowded with singing canaries.

When crossing the Yang-Tse river at Nankin, Mr. Lastreto remarked a new building of re-enforced concrete, the largest of its kind that he had ever seen. Inquiry elicited the fact that it had been built to house an establishment for the canning of wild game.

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In Java, the population is dense and birds are few. Some beetle or bird has practically eradicated the coffee plants formerly cultivated, and another sort has been experimented with, but with the later form of coffee plant has come a new bug which threatens to do away with this kind of coffee, too.

Mr. Lastreto's remarks concluded the program of the meeting. Following this, the Board of Directors elected to membership, Miss L. M. V. Lamoureux, of Berkeley.

* * *

REPORT OF THE OUTING COMMITTEE FOR 1921

Your Committee has to offer its analysis of the results of the monthly field trips taken during 1921 just completed.

Trips were taken to twelve different locations, viz.: Lake Merritt, Crystal Lake, Lake Lagunitas, Niles Canyon, Lafayette, Claremont Canyon, Big Lagoon, Fairfax, Lincoln Park and Bay Farm, Alameda, Lake Merced, U. C. Campus and Golden Gate Park.

One hundred twenty-two different species of birds were observed, with an average of thirty-five per trip. This illustrates a characteristic of the year 1921 which has been noted by a great many observers, namely, that birds hitherto abounding in certain localities are rarely found there in the same proportions as in the past. On many of the trips of the year some of the species which were not only common in the places being visited, but almost everywhere else, were not encountered by the party. This territory has been so thoroughly scoured by members of the Association that we cannot expect to increase the total number of species observed to any great extent over the maxima of the past. Individual members encounter new or rare species occasionally and an effort is made to enable other members to visit such birds but occasions like these do not figure in our monthly reports.

Lafayette trip in May proved to be the most popular as evidenced by the attendance and the most fruitful in the number of species, although the February trip to the Crystal Lake country, being a new one this year for the Association, produced the second largest list of species observed.

Forty-two different members attended the twelve trips, making among them a total of one hundred forty-eight trips. Forty-nine trips were taken by visitors, of whom three became members during the year. The total average attendance was the same as in 1920, namely, seventeen, of whom twelve were members and five were guests.

Your Committee is grateful for the response made by the older members to the appeal to attend trips for the benefit of the new members and of the Association and it bespeaks a continuance of the same.

The Committee has endeavored to make visitors welcome at all times and members are urged to bring guests who are interested in birds. After enlisting their interest we must endeavor to sustain it as the natural fate of an interested visitor is to become an active member in our Association and to bring others into the fold.

MRS. A. S. KIBBE, *Chairman.*

* * *

JANUARY FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 15th, to Lake Merritt and Trestle Glen. The weather was a trifle cool, yet warm enough to make the day a pleasant one. We arrived at the lake in time to witness the feeding of the birds. It did not seem that there were as many ducks as usual at the feeding place, but pintails and coots were in abundance.

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Before leaving the lake, the party was attracted by the song of a thrasher in the gardens near the tennis courts. Investigation resulted in locating two in full song. Upon the lake we had the unusual experience of finding a red-head male among the canvas-backs, and the European widgeon was again in evidence, but not a single green-winged teal was to be discovered. Another notable feature was the large number of eared grebes, distributed among the other birds.

After a survey of the water birds, we went to Trestle Glen for our lunch and then on up the trail to the head of the glen. Birds encountered were: Eared and pied-bill grebes, glaucous-winged, western, California and ring-billed gulls; mallard, baldpate, European widgeon, shoveller and pintail; redhead, canvas-back, scaup, American golden-eye and buffle-head; white-winged scoter, ruddy, lesser snow goose, coot; California quail, sparrow hawk, red-breasted sapsucker, flicker and Anna hummer; coast and California jays, meadow-lark and Brewer blackbird; linnet, green-backed goldfinch; golden-crowned, Nuttall and song sparrows; junco, San Francisco and California towhees; Audubon warbler, thrasher, Vigors wren, titmouse, bush and wren-tits; ruby-crowned kinglet, dwarf hermit thrush and western robin. Forty-six species in all.

Members in attendance were: Mesdemoiselles Ames, Ayer, Baily, Bea-man, Fritts, King, Pierce, Sterne, Vandervoort and Wilson; Mesdames Kelly, Kibbe, Reygadas and Warrington; Messrs. Kibbe, Rapp, Storer and Thomas. As guests, Mesdames Davenport, Howard, Oliver and Storer; Mr. W. E. Lovett. Eighteen members and five guests.

One of the party remained behind at the lake to make the census, with the following results:

Eared grebes	60- 65	Pintails	650-700
Pied-billed grebes	12- 15	Redhead	1- 1
Glaucous-winged gulls.....	15- 20	Canvas-backs	450-500
Western gulls.....	few	Scaup	250-300
California gulls	75-100	Golden-eyes	8- 10
Ring-billed gulls.....	few	Buffle-heads	6- 8
Mallards	15- 20	White-winged scoter	4- 5
Hybrid mallards.....	5- 5	Ruddy ducks	450-500
Baldpates	500-550	Lesser snow geese	3- 3
European widgeon	1- 1	Coots	600-700
Shovellers	100-125	Total numbers	3200-3600

MARY WARRINGTON.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

President.....	A. S. Kibbe.....	1524 Grove St., Berkeley
Recording Secretary.....	Miss Isabel Ames.....	1035 Geary St., San Francisco
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Miss E. F. Griffin.....	1035 Geary St., San Francisco

Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p. m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets.

Address Bulletin correspondence to President.

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